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TALES



REPRINT
EDITION

FROM THE

CRYPT

®

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE CRYPT OF TERROR

HEH, HEH! WELCOME BACK, FIENDS! WELCOME ONCE AGAIN TO THE CRYPT OF TERROR! THIS IS YOUR HOST IN HOWLS, THE CRYPT-KEEPER, READY TO NARRATE ANOTHER NAUSEATING TALE FROM MY COLLECTION! SO COME IN! SIT DOWN ON THAT SACK OF SILVER DOLLARS THERE AND I'LL BEGIN! THIS STORY HAPPENED TO A YOUNG CHAP NAMED PETER! IT'S IN HIS VERY OWN WORDS! I'LL TELL IT TO YOU THE WAY HE TOLD IT TO ME! HE CALLS THIS SPINE-TINGLING, HAIR-STANDING, BLOOD-FREEZER...

BY THE FRIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON!



MY NAME IS PETER GEDRA. I AM FIFTEEN YEARS OLD. MY FATHER, ALEC GEDRA, HAD BROUGHT ME AND MY BROTHER EDWARD TO THIS COUNTRY FROM HUNGARY SOON AFTER THE END OF THE LAST WAR. WITH THE MEAGER AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT MY FATHER HAD MANAGED TO SAVE, HE'D BOUGHT A SMALL FARM IN THE MID-WEST. EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING ALONG FINE FOR US WHEN...



IT'D HAPPENED ABOUT A YEAR AFTER WE'D ARRIVED IN AMERICA. EDWARD, MY YOUNGER BROTHER, HAD BEEN OUT IN THE FIELDS. SUDDENLY, HE'D COME DASHING ACROSS THE FARMYARD, SCREAMING FOR MY FATHER...

THERE'S A DEAD MAN, PAPA! IN THE CORN-FIELD! COME QUICKLY!

A DEAD MAN? WHERE? SHOW ME!

I'M COMING TOO!



I FOLLOWED MY FATHER AND EDWARD TO THE CORNFIELD. THE MAN WAS THERE, ALL RIGHT! ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF HIM! HE'D BEEN HORRIBLY MUTILATED... AS THOUGH...

GOOD LORD! HE...HE'S ATTACKED... BY A WILD BEAST!

BUT, PAPA! THERE ARE NO WILD BEASTS AROUND HERE!

EDWARD IS RIGHT, PAPA!



THEN... THEN IT IS THE WORK OF A WEREWOLF!

A WERE-WOLF!?

PAPA!



MY FATHER LOOKED AT EDWARD AND ME, A DARKNESS CLOUDING HIS FACE...

I'D THOUGHT THAT WE HAD LEFT SUCH HORRORS AS WERE-WOLVES BEHIND US... IN HUNGARY! I SEE THAT I AM WRONG!

ARE YOU SURE, PAPA? ARE YOU SURE IT IS A WERE-WOLF?



HE TURNED AND STARTED BACK TO THE HOUSE...

I AM SURE, EDWARD! COME! WE MUST GO TO THE TOWN... TO TELL THEM WHAT WE HAVE FOUND!

YES, PAPA!

PAPA! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL THEM... I MEAN...

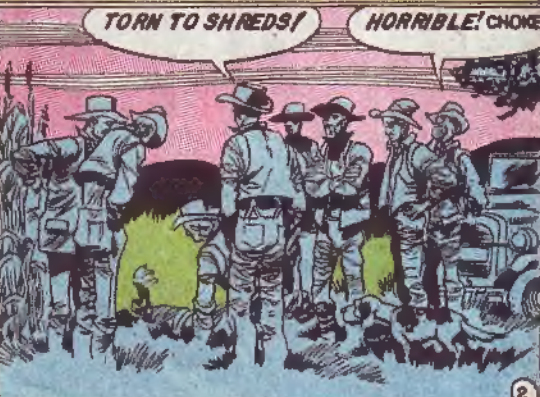


NO, PETER! I AM NOT GOING TO TELL THEM THAT I THINK IT IS THE WORK OF A WEREWOLF! THEY WOULD NOT BELIEVE IT... ANYWAY!

WEREWOLVES! IN AMERICA! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT MYSELF!



SO MY FATHER DROVE US INTO TOWN, MY BROTHER EDWARD AND MYSELF, AND SOON OUR LITTLE FARM WAS ALIVE WITH THE CURIOUS WHO CAME OUT FROM ALL AROUND TO SEE THE GORY SIGHT...



TORN TO SHREDS!

HORRIBLE! CHOKO.

THE SHERIFF QUESTIONED MY FATHER FOR SOME TIME...

AND YOU HEARD NO SCREAMS, MR. GEDRA? NO CRIES... LAST NIGHT?



I CAN'T FIGURE WHAT COULD HAVE DONE IT! LOOKS LIKE A WILD ANIMAL ATTACKED HIM, YET WE AIN'T GOT NOTHIN LIKE THAT 'ROUND HERE! ANY IDEAS, MR. GEDRA?

I...I HAVE NONE!



MEANWHILE, MY YOUNGER BROTHER WAS MINGLING WITH THE LOCAL FARM-BOYS...

MAYBE IT WAS AN ESCAPED LION...FROM A CIRCUS!

AW, WE WOULD'VE HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO!

MY PAPA SAYS IT WAS A WEREWOLF!



A...A WEREWOLF?

WHAT'S THAT?



A WEREWOLF IS A HUMAN BEING WHO CHANGES, WHEN THE FULL MOON COMES UP, INTO A VICIOUS FLESH-GRAVING WOLF!

AW! COMIC BOOK STUFF! WHO BELIEVES IN THAT JUNK?

IN MY OLD COUNTRY... IN HUNGARY...THE PEOPLE THERE BELIEVE IN WEREWOLVES!

EDWARD!



TELL THEM, PETER! TELL THEM THAT THERE REALLY ARE SUCH THINGS AS WEREWOLVES!

MY...MY BROTHER HAS A VIVID IMAGINATION! YOU...YOU SHOULD EXCUSE HIM! COME INSIDE, EDWARD!

AW! WE DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM, ANYWAY!



I PUSHED EDWARD INTO THE HOUSE...

WHY DON'T YOU LEARN TO KEEP YOUR BIG MOUTH SHUT?

BUT WHAT HARM IS THERE IN TALKING ABOUT WEREWOLVES?

WEREWOLVES? EH? WHO SAID SOMETHIN' 'BOUT WEREWOLVES?



IT WAS SHERIFF HUDSON! HE'D OVERHEARD US! HE STOOD THERE, GLARING DOWN AT US, HIS BUSHY EYEBROWS ARCHED...

WELL...WHAT ABOUT WEREWOLVES?

N-NOTHING, SIR! WE DIDN'T SAY...

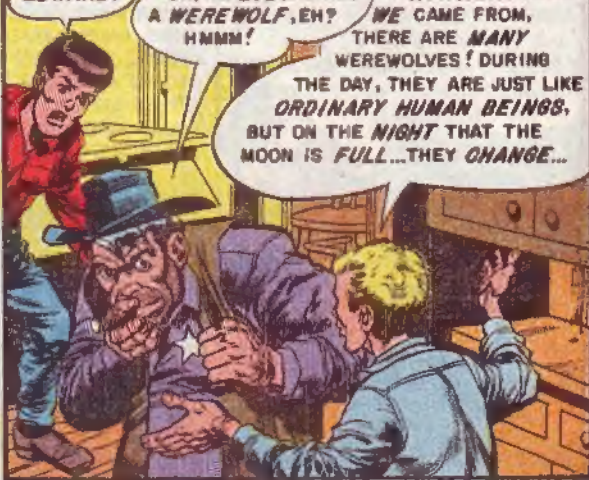
PAPA SAYS IT'S THE WORK OF A WEREWOLF... THAT KILLING!



EDWARD!

OH, HE DID, DID HE? A WEREWOLF, EH? HMMM!

IN HUNGARY, WHERE WE CAME FROM, THERE ARE **MANY** WEREWOLVES! DURING THE DAY, THEY ARE JUST LIKE **ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS**, BUT ON THE NIGHT THAT THE MOON IS **FULL**...THEY **CHANGE**...



THEY CHANGE INTO A WOLF, EH? AND THEY EAT HUMAN FLESH?

W-WHY, SHERIFF! YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THEM, DON'T YOU?

YES! I DO! OKAY, BOYS! LET'S GO! WRAP THAT GRITTER IN A SACK AND LET'S CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

OKAY, SHERIFF!



AFTER THE SHERIFF AND HIS DEPUTIES AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE HAD LEFT OUR FARM, I TOLD MY FATHER ABOUT EDWARD...AND HIS BIG MOUTH...

...AND HE TOLD EVERYBODY...EVEN THE SHERIFF!

WELL! I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH, PETER! THEY WON'T BELIEVE IT, ANYWAY!



BUT FATHER WAS WRONG! SHERIFF HUDSON WENT BACK TO TOWN TO HIS OFFICE AND...

HAND ME THAT ALMANAC THERE, HERB! SOMETHIN' I WANT TO LOOK UP!

SURE THING, SHERIFF! HERE Y'ARE!



SHERIFF HUDSON FLIPPED THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE ALMANAC...FOUND WHAT HE WANTED...AND STUDIED IT FOR SOME TIME...

KNOW SOMETHIN', HERB? LAST NIGHT WAS THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON!

FULL...MOON?! SO WHAT?



SHERIFF HUDSON MADE A TRIP TO THE TOWN LIBRARY AFTER THAT! HE WANTED TO READ UP ON...

WEREWOLVES?! OH, DEAR! LET ME SEE! W...W! WER... WEREWOLVES! AH... YES, WE HAVE A BOOK THAT COVERS THE SUBJECT...

LET ME SEE IT, EH, MISS PURDLEY?



ABOUT A MONTH LATER, I WAS AWAKENED FROM A FITFUL SLEEP BY THE SOUND OF A DISTANT HOWLING. I GOT UP AND RAN TO MY FATHER'S BEDROOM. HE WAS FAST ASLEEP...

PAPA? PAPA?

HUH? PETER? THAT YOU...



WE SAT FOR AWHILE LISTENING TO THE HOWLS! MY FATHER REASSURED ME, PATTING MY BACK...

PROBABLY JUST AN OLD DOG HOWLING AT THE MOON, MY SON! GO BACK TO SLEEP!

Y-YES, PAPA!



BUT LATER THAT NIGHT, I WAS AWAKENED BY...

PETER! SOMEONE'S HAMMERING ON THE DOOR! WAKE UP!

WHA...? OH! EDWARD! WHO IS IT?



WE HEARD ANGRY VOICES! WE TIP-TOED TO THE KITCHEN! FATHER WAS ARGUING WITH SOME MEN! SHERIFF HUDSON WAS WITH THEM...

NO! YOU ARE WRONG! I AM NO WEREWOLF! I SWEAR IT!

YOU COME FROM HUNGARY, DON'T YOU! WOLFSBANE GROWS IN HUNGARY!



WE COWERED IN THE DOORWAY... FRIGHTENED... LISTENING...

YES! BUT I...

WE FOUND ANOTHER VICTIM, GEDRA! HE WAS KILLED TONIGHT! TORN TO PIECES AND PARTIALLY EATEN! THERE'S A FULL MOON OUT TONIGHT. WEREWOLVES ATTACK WHEN THE MOON IS FULL!



AND WEREWOLVES WE DIDN'T HAVE NO KILLIN'S LIKE THIS BEFORE YOU COME HERE!

WE DIDN'T HAVE NO KILLIN'S LIKE THIS BEFORE YOU COME HERE!

SO YOU MUST BE THE WERE-WOLF...



THEY GRABBED MY FATHER AND DRAGGED HIM FROM THE HOUSE...

PAPA! PAPA!

WE KNOW HOW TO GET RID OF A WEREWOLF, GEDRA! HANK, HERE, CARVED A SILVER BULLET!



PAPA... SOB... PAPA...

HE... HE'S DEAD, EDWARD! THEY... KILLED HIM!



EDWARD LOOKED AT ME WITH TEAR-FILLED EYES...

PAPA WASN'T... SOB... THE WEREWOLF WAS HE, PETER? SOB... SOB...

NO! HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN! I SAW HIM TONIGHT... SLEEPING... IN HIS ROOM!



EDWARD'S FACE GREW GRIM! HE CHOKED BACK HIS TEARS...

I'LL GET HIM! I'LL GET THE WEREWOLF! I KNOW WHO IT IS! I CAN TELL!

WHO, EDWARD? WHO IS IT?



IT'S THAT SHERIFF! DID YOU EVER NOTICE THE WAY HIS EYEBROWS GROW TOGETHER? THAT'S THE SIGN OF A WEREWOLF! NEXT MONTH, WHEN THE MOON IS FULL, I'LL WAIT FOR HIM, AND...

WHAT CAN YOU DO, EDWARD? YOU HAVE NO GUN... NO SILVER BULLET!



AND THERE... IN THE MOONLIGHT... IN THE FARMYARD... THEY SHOT MY FATHER WITH THAT SILVER BULLET...



NO, BUT I HAVE THESE! A SLING-SHOT... AND A SILVER DOLLAR!

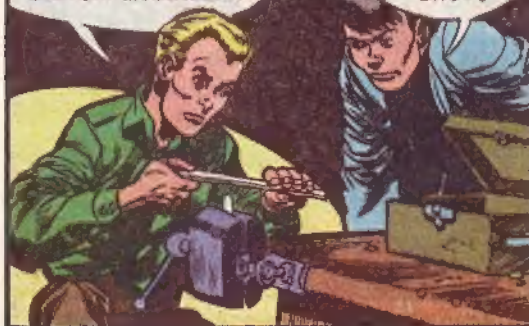
A SLING-SHOT! AND A SILVER DOLLAR! BUT HOW CAN YOU KILL A WEREWOLF WITH A SILVER DOLLAR...



IT TOOK EDWARD MANY DAYS TO FILE DOWN THE EDGE OF THE SILVER DOLLAR TILL IT WAS RAZOR-SHARP...

YOU SEE, PETER? ONCE I HAVE SHARPENED THE EDGE, I WILL HAVE A LETHAL SILVER MISSILE...

AND YOU WILL FIRE IT WITH THE SLING-SHOT?



AND SO I TOO SET ABOUT SHARPENING THE EDGE OF A SILVER DOLLAR, AND FASHIONING A POWERFUL SLING SHOT...



... AND WHEN THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON CAME, MY YOUNGER BROTHER EDWARD AND I WERE READY...

COME, PETER! IT IS TIME! WE MUST GO...

YES, EDWARD!



WE CROSSED THE FIELDS TOWARD TOWN... LISTENING... HOPING...

HUSH! WHAT WAS THAT?

I HEARD NOTHING, EDWARD!



AND THEN WE SAW IT... A SHADOWY FIGURE STEALING DOWN A LONELY COUNTRY ROAD...

LOOK! IS THAT HIM? UP AHEAD?

LET'S SEPARATE, PETER! YOU GO THAT WAY! I'LL GO THIS... WAY...



BEFORE I COULD OBJECT, EDWARD HAD DARTED OFF INTO THE WOODS! I STOOD THERE FOR A MOMENT... HESITATING! THEN I SWUNG OFF INTO THE TREES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD! WE WERE GOING TO CIRCLE AROUND... CUT HIM OFF! SUDDENLY...

EDWARD!



I RAN AS FAST AS I COULD TOWARD THE SCREAMING...SLIPPING THE RAZOR-SHARP SILVER DOLLAR INTO THE SLING-SHOT...

EDWARD! I'M COMING!
I'M COMING!



AS I BURST OUT INTO THE CLEARING, I SAW IT! A HORRIBLE, HAIRY, RED-EYED CREATURE...ITS MOUTH DRIPPING BLOOD...BENDING OVER ITS VICTIM...

EDWARD! I...I...OH, MY LORD!
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE TO HIM...



I TOOK CAREFUL AIM...



...AND LET MY SLING-SHOT SNAP...



THE SILVER DOLLAR ENTERED THE WEREWOLF'S THROBBING THROAT...



AND IT PITCHED FORWARD! AND EVEN AS I WATCHED, THOSE DISGUSTING FANGS SHRANK...THE HAIR DISAPPEARED...THE EYES DARKENED...AND THE AGONIZED FACE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER TOOK SHAPE...

EDWARD...CHOKE!
OH...SOB...EDWARD...



HEH, HEH! YEP, KIDDIES! *YOUNG EDWARD* WAS THE WEREWOLF *ALL ALONG!* ONLY HE DIDN'T EVEN *KNOW* IT! AND THAT'S THE STORY THE WAY *PETER GEDRA* TOLD IT TO *ME!* YEP! THAT NIGHT, HE AND EDWARD *DID* CLEAR THEIR *FATHER'S NAME!* MESSED UP *EDWARD'S*, THOUGH! OH,

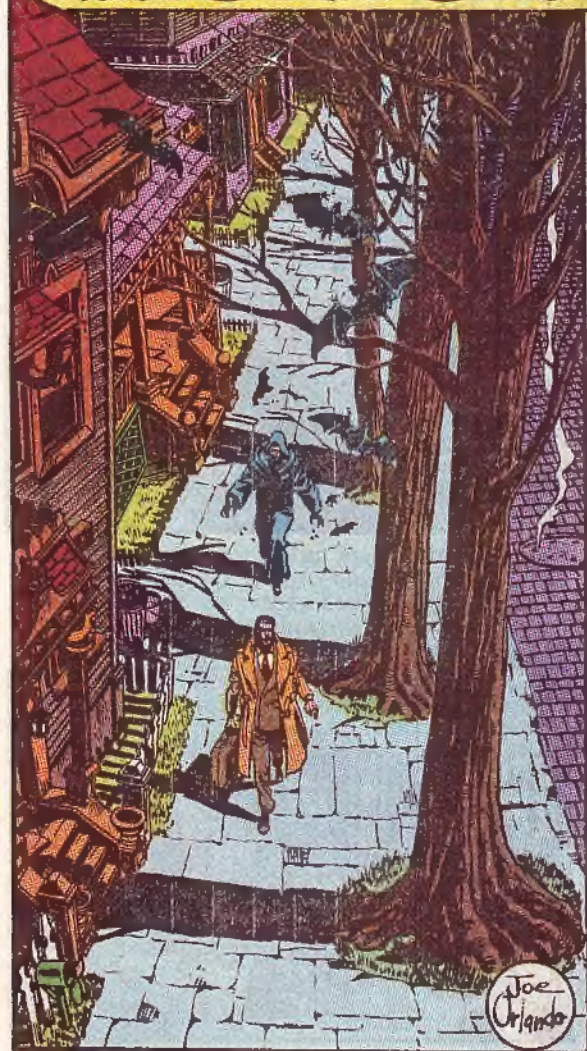
BY THE WAY!
PETER'S GIVEN ME A NICE *RECIPE!* THINK I'LL TURN IT OVER TO THE *OLD WITCH!* IT'S FOR *HUNGARIAN SHOUL-OSH!* SEE YOU LATER! *V.K. AWAITS!*



THE VAULT OF HORROR!

HEH, HEH! LOOKS LIKE *SUPERNATURAL* IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY, EH, FIENDS? C.K. TOLD YOU A *WEREWOLF* STORY, SO I'LL TELL YOU ONE ABOUT *VAMPIRES*! WELCOME TO THE *VAULT OF HORROR*! THIS IS YOUR *VAULT-KEEPER* SHRIEKING! I CALL THIS BLOOD-CURDLING TALE FROM MY BLOODY COLLECTION.

MIDNIGHT MESS!



Joe Orlando



THE CLOCK IN THE STEEPLE OF THE VILLAGE HALL CHIMED FIVE AS HAROLD MADISON MOVED ACROSS THE SQUARE FROM THE RAILROAD STATION. IN THE DISTANCE, THE TRAIN WHISTLED OFF INTO THE GATHERING TWILIGHT. HAROLD GAZED UP AT THE CLOCK TOWER STILL ECHOING THE LAST CHIME, LOOKED AROUND AT THE QUIANT BUILDINGS LINING THE SQUARE, AND CHUCKLED...



HEH! THIS IS *JUST* THE KIND OF *BERG* MY SISTER *WOULD* BE HAPPY IN! WHAT A *DEAD-LOOKING* PLACE!

THE VILLAGE SQUARE WAS STRANGELY DESERTED. HAROLD SET DOWN HIS VALISE AND SCRATCHED HIS HEAD...

NOBODY AROUND! NO GABS!
NO NOTHIN'! WELL, HOW
IN BLAZES WILL I FIND
MY SISTER'S HOUSE? ALL
I KNOW IS THE ADDRESS!



A NERVOUS LOOKING OLD MAN CAME OUT OF ONE OF THE SMALL STORES, LOCKED THE DOOR, AND HURRIED ACROSS THE SQUARE TOWARD HAROLD. HE KEPT LOOKING AROUND AS IF HE WERE BEING FOLLOWED. HAROLD CALLED TO HIM...

HEY! HEY, YOU! WHERE'S
SHORE STREET? 1223
SHORE STREET?

EH! SHORE STREET?
WEST... TWO BLOCKS!
THEN EAST... THREE! BUT
YOU'D BETTER HURRY!
IT'S GETTING DARK!



THE NERVOUS OLD MAN TROTTED ON PAST HAROLD, NOT EVEN STOPPING FOR AN INSTANT...

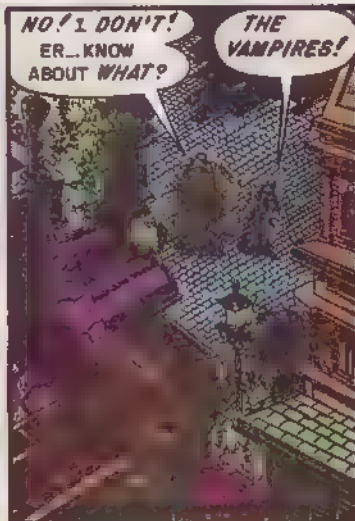
SO IT'S GETTING
DARK! SO WHAT?

YOU'RE A
STRANGER
HERE, AREN'T
YOU? YOU DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THEM!



NO! I DON'T!
ER...KNOW
ABOUT WHAT?

THE
VAMPIRES!



THE...THE WHO?
THE VAMPIRES?
AW, O' MON...

BETTER
HURRY! IT'LL
BE SUNDOWN
SOON. VAMPIRES
COME OUT AFTER
SUNDOWN!



THEN THE OLD MAN WAS GONE, UP A NARROW ALLEY! HAROLD LAUGHED AND CONTINUED ON ACROSS THE SQUARE A SIGN CAUGHT HIS EYE.

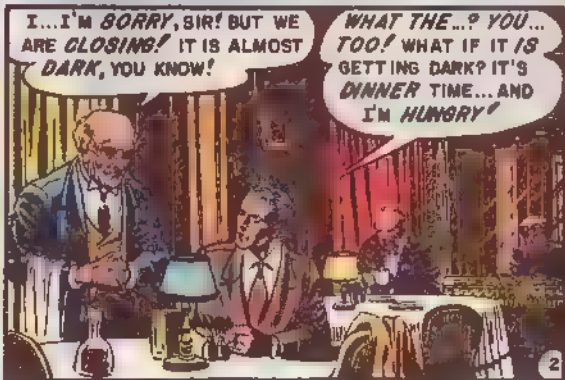
AH! A RESTAURANT! I
COULD DO WITH A BITE TO
EAT! I'M STARVED!



THE RESTAURANT WAS SMALL, BUT THE MIRRORED WALL AT THE FAR END MADE IT APPEAR MUCH LARGER THAN IT ACTUALLY WAS. EXCEPT FOR ONE OR TWO PEOPLE WHO WERE FINISHING THEIR MEALS, THE PLACE WAS EMPTY. A WAITER CAME FORWARD...

I...I'M SORRY, SIR! BUT WE
ARE CLOSING! IT IS ALMOST
DARK, YOU KNOW!

WHAT THE...? YOU...
TOO! WHAT IF IT IS
GETTING DARK? IT'S
DINNER TIME... AND
I'M HUNGRY!



THE WAITER SHOOK HIS HEAD...

WE CLOSE IN ORDER
THAT OUR HELP MAY
GET HOME BEFORE
SUNDOWN, SIR! THE
VAMPIRES, YOU KNOW!

VAMPIRES?
WHAT
VAMPIRES?

FOR A MOMENT THE WAITER
STARED AT HAROLD! THEN HIS
EYES FELL TO HIS SUITCASE...

OH! YOU'RE A
STRANGER
HERE! THEN
YOU DO NOT
KNOW WHAT IS
HAPPENING!

NO! I DON'T!
WHAT'S THIS ALL
ABOUT?

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVENTEEN
CASES SO FAR. BODIES FOUND
WITH EVERY DROP OF BLOOD
DRAINED OUT OF
THEM. THE WHOLE TOWN
IS IN THE GRIP OF FEAR.
IT'S THE WORK OF
VAMPIRES!

BAH!
NO
SUCH
THING!

NEVERTHELESS, I SUGGEST
THAT YOU GET TO WHERE
YOU'RE GOING BEFORE
IT BECOMES DARK AND
THE VAMPIRES BEGIN
TO ROAM THE STREETS
LOOKING FOR A VICTIM!

OKAY! OKAY! I'M
GOING! WHERE'S 1223
SHORE STREET?
CAN YOU TELL ME
THAT?

OF COURSE! WEST...TWO BLOCKS!
THEN EAST...THREE! GOOD-NIGHT!

GOOD NIGHT!
HMMPH! IS EVERY-
BODY IN THIS
BERG NUTS? VAM-
PIRES! HMMPH!

HAROLD STALKED THROUGH THE TOWN TOWARD HIS
SISTER'S HOUSE! AS HE WENT, HE COULD HEAR DOORS
BEING LOCKED AND BOLTED, BLINDS BEING DRAWN.
FINALLY...

YES? WHO'S
OUT THERE?

DONNA? IT'S ME!
HAROLD! YOUR BROTHER!

HAROLD'S SISTER THREW OPEN THE DOOR...

HAROLD! YOU.. YOU
WEREN'T OUT THERE...
IN THE DARK!

OH, NO! DONNA! DON'T
TELL ME YOU BELIEVE IN
THIS VAMPIRE BUSINESS,
TOO!

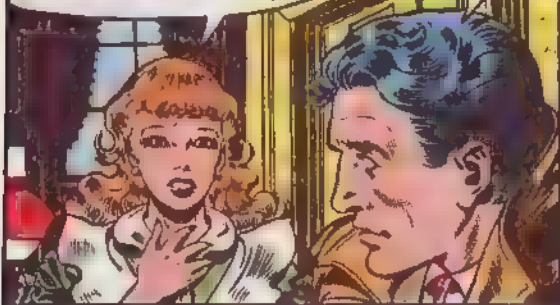
DONNA LOCKED AND BOLTED THE DOOR BEHIND HAROLD, AND TURNED TO FACE HIM, HER EYES WIDE IN TERROR.

OF COURSE I BELIEVE IN THE VAMPIRES! SEVENTEEN VILLAGERS MURDERED ALREADY! BLOOD DRAINED! WHAT'ELSE COULD HAVE DONE IT...?

DONNA! THERE'RE NO SUCH THINGS AS VAMPIRES! THEY'RE MYTHS...

PERHAPS... PERHAPS THERE'S A HOMICIDAL MANIAC LOOSE IN THIS TOWN? CERTAINLY THERE MUST BE A LOGICAL EXPLANATION! BUT NOT VAMPIRES. IT'S RIDICULOUS!

ALL RIGHT, HAROLD! BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT TO BELIEVE! NOW LET'S FORGET ABOUT IT! COME INSIDE! TELL ME! WHY THE SURPRISE VISIT?



WELL, I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE COAST AND I THOUGHT I'D DROP IN ON YOU...

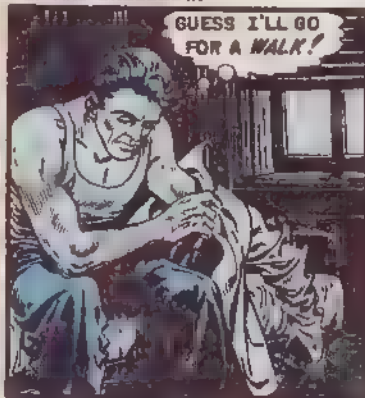
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, HAROLD! YOU'RE LOOKING WELL!

THAT NIGHT, HAROLD MADISON COULD NOT SLEEP! HE TOSSED AND TURNED ON THE GOT DONNA HAD SET UP FOR HIM. FINALLY HE GOT UP AND DRESSED...

GUESS I'LL GO FOR A WALK!

OUT INTO THE DESERTED STREETS, HAROLD MOVED... DOWN SILENT DARK SIDEWALKS... TOWARD THE VILLAGE SQUARE...

VAMPIRES! HMMPH!

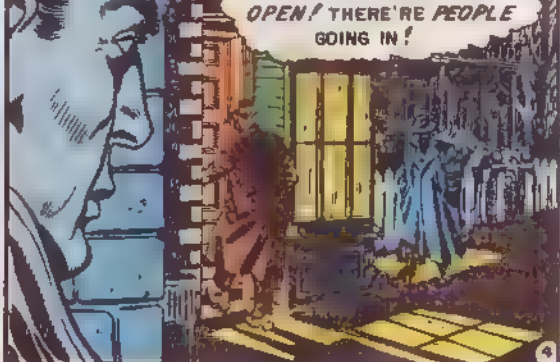


EVERY DOOR, EVERY WINDOW THAT HAROLD PASSED WAS LOCKED UP TIGHT AND DARK! THE VILLAGE SQUARE WAS EMPTY AND SILENT...

NOT A SOUL OUT! THEY SURE ROLL THIS TOWN UP TIGHTER'N A DRUM AFTER DARK!

AND THEN HE HEARD IT... THE LAUGHTER AND THE GAY CHATTER. IT CAME FROM A FAMILIAR BUILDING...

WELL I'LL BE!... THE RESTAURANT I WAS IN THIS AFTERNOON! IT'S OPEN! THERE'RE PEOPLE GOING IN!



THE RESTAURANT WAS ALL LIT UP. PEOPLE SAT AT TABLES, TALKING AND EATING. HAROLD WENT IN...

THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T SLEEP! I WAS HUNGRY! GUESS I'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT!



HAROLD SAT DOWN AT A TABLE! HE LOOKED AROUND AT THE PEOPLE SEATED NEAR HIM. A WAITER APPROACHED! A DIFFERENT ONE FROM THE ONE HE'D SPOKEN TO EARLIER...

CERTAINLY ARE SOME QUEER LOOKING CHARACTERS OUT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!

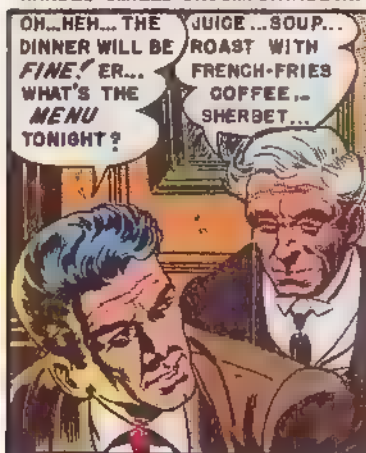
WILL YOU HAVE THE DINNER, SIR... OR WOULD YOU...



THE WAITER LOOKED AT HAROLD WITH DARK PIERCING EYES.... HAROLD SMILED UNCOMFORTABLY...

OH...HEH... THE DINNER WILL BE FINE! ER... WHAT'S THE MENU TONIGHT?

THE JUICE...SOUP... ROAST WITH FRENCH-FRIES COFFEE... SHERBET...



HAROLD LICKED HIS LIPS...

GOOD! SAY! I AM HUNGRY! HEH...HEH!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



THE WAITER WENT AWAY AND CAME BACK WITH A GLASS OF JUICE...

AH! TOMATO JUICE!

VERY FUNNY!



HAROLD SIPPED THE CHILLED JUICE IN THE GLASS. IT TASTED SALTIER THAN USUAL...AND THINNER...

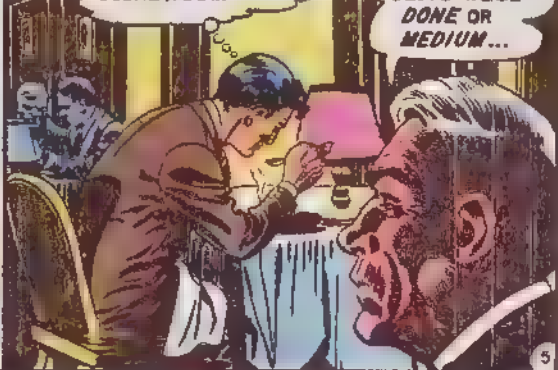
UGH! OH, WELL! CAN'T EXPECT MUCH IN A SMALL-TOWN RESTAURANT! THE WAITER'S LOOKING AT ME! I'D BETTER FINISH IT!

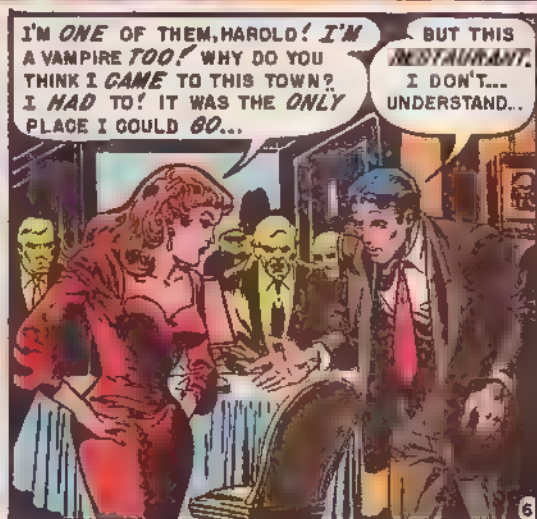
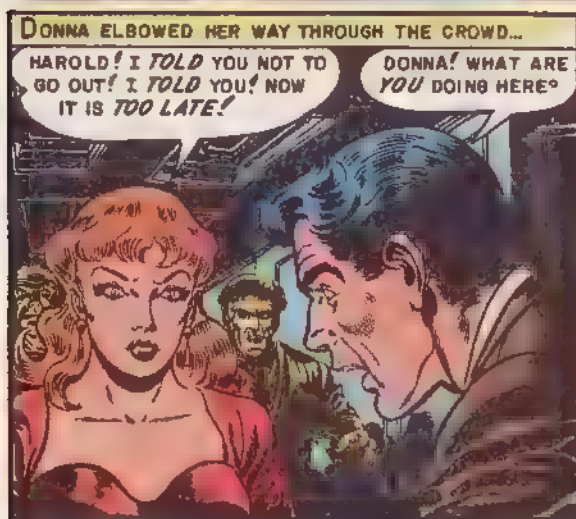


THE SOUP WAS HOT... BUT IT TOO WAS SALTIER THAN HAROLD WOULD'VE LIKED...

STRANGEST TASTING BOUILLION I'VE EVER HAD! RICHER THAN USUAL, TOO...

DO YOU LIKE YOUR ROAST GLOTS WELL-DONE OR MEDIUM...





IN THE OLD DAYS, HUMANS HUNTED THEIR OWN FOOD...PREPARED IT THEMSELVES! VAMPIRES TOO, IN THE LEGENDS, HUNTED THEIR OWN VICTIMS! BUT NOW, WE, JUST LIKE MODERN MAN, LEAVE THE HUNTING TO THE PROFESSIONALS! WE LEAVE THE PREPARING TO THE PROFESSIONALS, TOO...

YOU MEAN...

THIS RESTAURANT SERVES BLOOD DISHES... LIKE A VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT SERVES VEGETABLE DISHES. BLOOD-JUICE-COCKTAIL... HOT BLOOD-CONSOMME... ROAST BLOOD-CLOTS... FRENCH-FRIED SCABS... BLOOD SHERBET...

CHOKE.

I'M SORRY, HAROLD! LIKE THE OTHER SEVENTEEN THAT WANDERED INTO THIS RESTAURANT, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE SILENCED! I CANNOT SAVE YOU!

THE TAP! BRING THE TAP!

HAROLD WAS LIFTED SOOPLY BY THE GIBBLING CROWD OF VAMPIRES WHILE HIS SISTER LOOKED ON UNCONCERNEDLY. ONE VAMPIRE BROUGHT A ROPE! ANOTHER...THE TAP...

TIE UP HIS FEET!

STRING HIM UP!

A PARTY!

AND SO HAROLD WAS STRUNG UP...HEAD DOWN! THE TAP WAS INSERTED INTO HIS JUGULAR VEIN! AND EACH OF THE VAMPIRES CAME... ONE BY ONE... AND FILLED ITS GLASS...

NOTHIN' LIKE THE REAL STUFF!

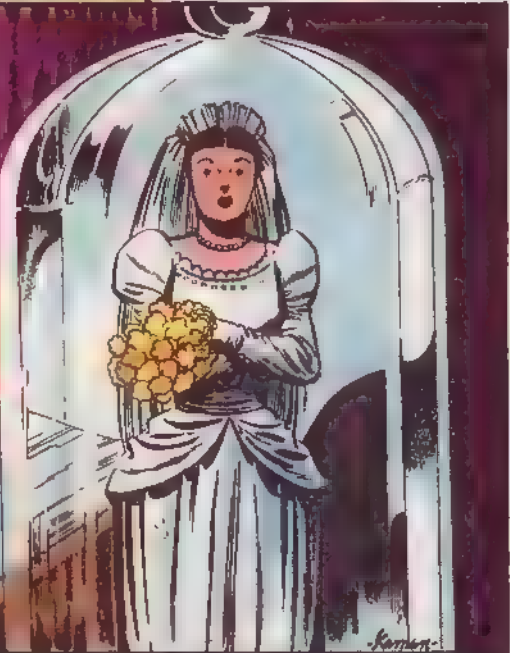
I'LL SAY...

HEH, HEH! AND THAT'S THE STORY, KIDDIES! THAT'S WHAT 'CIVILIZED' VAMPIRES DO THESE DAYS! THEY DINE IN BLOODITARIAN RESTAURANTS, OPEN SUNDOWN TO SUNRISE. WHERE IS THERE ONE IN YOUR TOWN, YOU ASK? WELL, SOME NIGHT IF YOU FEEL UP TO IT, LOOK FOR IT! YOU CAN TELL IT BY THE SIGN INSIDE! IT'S IN RED... AND IT SAYS, "POSITIVELY NO NIPPING THE WAITERS!" THE GUY WHO STARTED THIS CHAIN OF DRINKERIES IS A VAMPIRE BARNUM!

HE KNOWS THERE'S A 'SUCKER' BORN EVERY MINUTE! NOW I'LL TURN YOU BACK TO THE CRYPT-KEEPER! 'BYE!

HERE'S A YARN THAT FIGURES
TO END UP PRETTY HORRIBLE...

BUSTED MARRIAGE!



JEFFREY HORN WAS A DESPERATE MAN. HE WANTED MONEY. HE WANTED THE COMFORTS MONEY COULD BRING HIM. AND LOUISE BRITTLING WAS RICH... VERY RICH. SO HE SWALLOWED HIS PRIDE... AND PROPOSED...

YOU'RE... VERY NICE, JEFFREY... BUT I DON'T LOVE YOU...
LOUISE: AGE DOESN'T MATTER. I LOVE YOU, BESIDES... I'M TEN YEARS OLDER THAN YOU!
LOUISE: THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT! I WISH YOU COULD FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO LOVE ME.
I... I...

BUT JEFFREY HORN WAS NOT ONE TO GIVE UP EASILY. HE'D HEARD ABOUT THE LITTLE SHOP DOWNTOWN WITH THE STRANGE NATIVE PROPRIETOR...

I FOLLOWED HER WHEREVER SHE WENT. I PICKED UP THESE HAIR CLIPPINGS AND NAIL CLIPPINGS IN HER BEAUTY PARLOR! YOU SAID YOU'D NEED THEM...
GOOD! GOOD! NOW! YOU SAY YOU WANT TO MARRY HER..?



YES! I WANT HER TO CONSENT TO BE MY WIFE! I WANT US TO BE MARRIED...

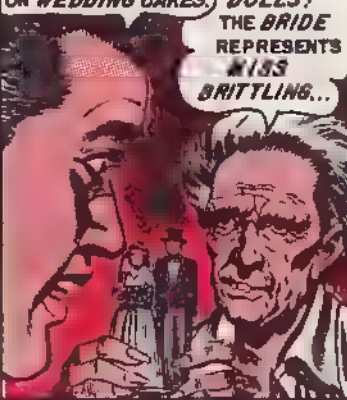
LEAVE ME CLIPPINGS FROM YOUR HAIR AND NAILS, AND COME BACK TOMORROW! I WILL BE READY!



THE NEXT DAY...

WHY THESE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN SUGAR DOLLS... THE KIND ONE SEES ON WEDDING CAKES.

NOT QUITE, MR. HORN! THESE ARE VODOO DOLLS! THE BRIDE REPRESENTS MISS BRITTLING...



... AND THE GROOM REPRESENTS YOU! TAKE THEM HOME! PUT THEM SOMEPLACE SAFE FROM HARM. WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THESE DOLLS, HAPPENS TO THE PERSON THEY REPRESENT!

I... I SEE! AND SINCE THEY ARE GETTING MARRIED... LOUISE AND I WILL BE MARRIED!



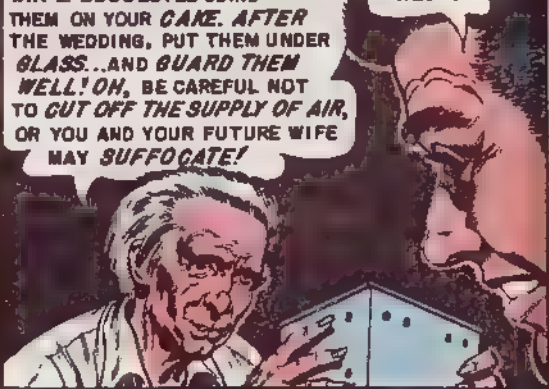
EXACTLY! AND MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU HAVE THESE DOLLS PLACED ON YOUR OWN WEDDING CAKE. SUCH ARTICLES ARE HIGHLY TREASURED. IT WILL INSURE THEIR SAFETY...

YOU... YOU MEAN THAT IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO THESE DOLLS... AN ARM BREAK OFF.. OR A LEG... THAT THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN TO THE PERSON...



IT IS THE VODOO SPELL! YOU MUST TAKE THE BAD WITH THE GOOD! THAT IS WHY I SUGGESTED USING THEM ON YOUR CAKE. AFTER THE WEDDING, PUT THEM UNDER GLASS... AND GUARD THEM WELL! OH, BE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF AIR, OR YOU AND YOUR FUTURE WIFE MAY SUFFOCATE!

I'LL... BE CAREFUL! THANK YOU! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE LOUISE BRITTLING'S ATTITUDE TOWARD JEFFREY BEGAN TO CHANGE, UNTIL...

OH, DARLING! AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WERE MERELY IN LOVE WITH MY MONEY... BUT NOW I KNOW YOU LOVE ME FOR MYSELF! YES... YES... I'LL MARRY YOU!

LOUISE! LOUISE... AT LAST...



AND SO... THEY WERE MARRIED! AND THE FIGURES STOOD UPON THE LAVISH WEDDING CAKE... AND SMILED...

JEFFREY! I'M SO HAPPY! LIKE THOSE FIGURES... ON OUR CAKE!

LET'S... SAVE THOSE FIGURES, MONEY... FOR ALWAYS! THEY WILL BE A SYMBOL OF OUR HAPPINESS...



SO WITH SLUSH LIKE THAT, JEFFREY MANAGED TO HAVE THE VOODOO FIGURES PLACED IN A LOCKED CHINA CLOSET UNDER A GLASS BELL IN LOUISE'S PALATIAL HOME...

THERE' AND EVERY TIME WE HAVE A SPAT OR A MISUNDERSTANDING, THESE FIGURES WILL REMIND US OF HOW HAPPY WE WERE AT THIS MOMENT!

OPEN THE WINDOW, JEFF! IT'S SO HOT IN HERE

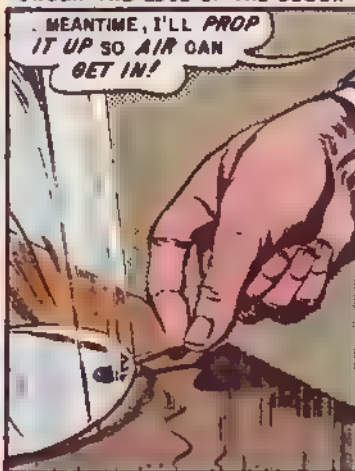


HE WATCHED AS LOUISE LABORED UP THE MARBLE STAIRCASE. AS SOON AS SHE'D GONE INTO HER ROOM, JEFFREY UNLOCKED THE CHINA CLOSET, GASPING FOR BREATH... THAT WAS STUPID OF ME! I FORGOT ABOUT CUTTING OFF THE AIR SUPPLY! TOMORROW I'LL HAVE TO GET A BELL WITH HOLES IN IT! MEANTIME...



JEFF SLIPPED A MATCH STICK UNDER THE EDGE OF THE BELL...

MEANTIME, I'LL PROP IT UP SO AIR CAN GET IN!



JEFFREY LAUGHED AND SHOT A TROUBLED GLANCE AT THE FIGURINES INSIDE THE CHINA CLOSET.

HEH! IT'S ONLY WARM FOR NEW BRIDES, HONEY! GO ON UPSTAIRS! I'LL BE UP IN A MINUTE!

ALL RIGHT, JEFF! BUT DON'T BE LONG, WILL YOU? WHEW! IT'S AWFULLY STUFFY IN HERE!



THEN HE LOOKED THE CHINA CLOSET AND POCKETED THE KEY. HE WENT UPSTAIRS. LOUISE SAT ON THE BED SMILING AT HIM...

THAT'S BETTER! WHAT WAS IT?

OH...ER... SOME DAMN FOOL HAD TURNED UP THE THERMOSTAT!



AND SO, WITH THE AID OF VOODOO... JEFF HORN HAD GOTTEN WHAT HE WANTED! HE'D MARRIED LOUISE BRITTLING... AND HER MILLIONS. THE NEXT DAY HE PURCHASED A NEW GLASS BELL... HAD TINY HOLES DRILLED IN IT... AND SUBSTITUTED IT IN THE CHINA CLOSET. ALL WENT WELL FOR A YEAR! THEN...

LOUISE! I WISH YOU WOULDN'T DRAG ME TO THESE PARTIES! YOU KNOW HOW I....

HUSH! SOME-ONE'S COMING!

LOUISE! WHY, YOU CAME!



...AND THIS MUST BE YOUR NEW HUSBAND! WELL, INTRODUCE ME...

JEFF! THIS IS EVE PORTER! EVE'S BEEN IN EUROPE FOR TWO YEARS...

GLAD TO MEET YOU, EVE!



EVE PORTER WAS YOUNG AND LOVELY. SHE WAS ATTRACTED TO JEFF! THAT EVENING, AS THEY DANCED...

TOO BAD I DIDN'T MEET YOU BEFORE LOUISE DID, JEFF! YOU'RE QUITE A GUY!

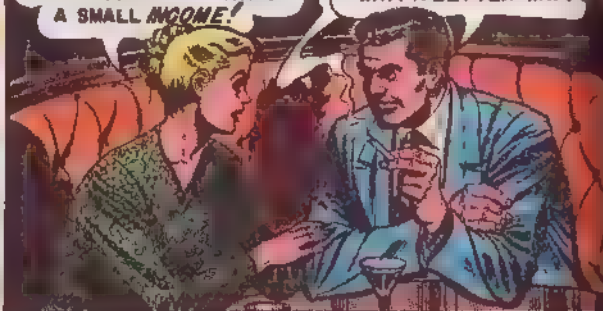
PERHAPS... PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE DINNER TOGETHER SOMETIME, EVE!



AND SO, EVE AND JEFF BEGAN SEEING EACH OTHER... SECRETLY! THEIR ATTRACTION FOR EACH OTHER GREW STRONGER EACH TIME THEY MET. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THEY REALIZED THAT THEY WERE FALLING IN LOVE...

DIVORCE LOUISE, DARLING! MARRY ME! WE'LL GET ALONG SOMEHOW! I HAVE A SMALL INCOME!

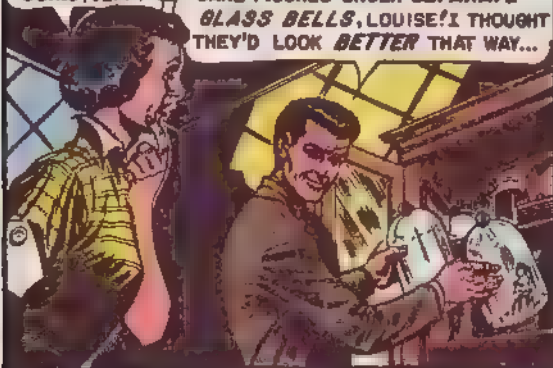
I... I LOVE YOU EVE... BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY! A BETTER WAY!



IT WAS LOUISE'S WEALTH THAT JEFF WAS THINKING OF. HE HATED TO GIVE THAT UP, AND THERE WAS A WAY... ONE WAY TO HAVE BOTH... BOTH LOUISE'S MONEY... AND EVE... SO...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JEFF?

I'M PUTTING THESE WEDDING CAKE FIGURES UNDER SEPARATE GLASS BELLS, LOUISE! I THOUGHT THEY'D LOOK BETTER THAT WAY...



WHAT JEFF WAS DOING WAS TAKING THE OLD GLASS BELL, THE ONE WITHOUT ANY HOLES AND PLACING IT OVER LOUISE'S FIGURE. HE PUT HIS OWN UNDER THE ONE WITH THE VENTILATION! LATER THAT NIGHT...

GASP... JEFF! GASP! I... I CAN'T BREATHE!

WHAT IS IT, LOUISE? WHAT'S WRONG? SHALL I CALL A DOCTOR?



IT WAS SO SIMPLE! LOUISE'S BREATHING BECAME MORE AND MORE LABORED! THE DOCTOR CAME! HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

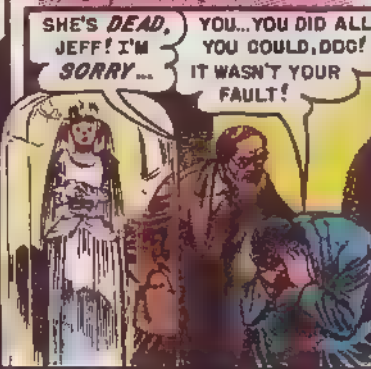
IT'S AS IF SHE DO SOMETHING, WERE SUFFOCATING! DOCTOR! DO SOMETHING! IT MUST BE HER HEART!



BUT JEFF KNEW THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE FOR LOUISE. IN THE CHINA CLOSET, THE LAST TRACE OF AIR INSIDE THE BELL HOUSING LOUISE'S VODOO FIGURINE VANISHED, AND...

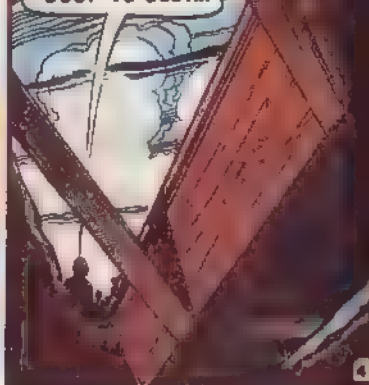
SHE'S DEAD, JEFF! I'M SORRY...

YOU... YOU DID ALL YOU COULD, DOC! IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!



AND NOW JEFF WAS FREE! FREE TO MARRY EVE! AND LOUISE'S MONEY WAS ALL HIS...

ASHES TO ASHES... DUST TO DUST...



AFTER THE FUNERAL, JEFF WANTED TO DESTROY LOUISE'S IMAGE... BUT HE RECONSIDERED...

I STILL HAVE TO PRESERVE MY FIGURINE! I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE MINE IS KEPT FROM HARM! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...



AND SO...

WHAT IS IT, JEFF? WHAT'S THE SURPRISE?

LOOK!



EVE HAD NEVER SEEN THE FIGURINES IN LOUISE'S CHINA CLOSET! SO IT WAS EASY TO FOOL HER...

I BOUGHT THEM FOR OUR WEDDING CAKE?

OH, JEFF... HOW SWEET!



LOUISE'S FIGURE STOOD IN HER AIR-TIGHT GLASS BELL... AFTER THE WEDDING

WE'LL KEEP THEM, ALWAYS, AS A SYMBOL OF OUR LOVE... UNDER THESE GLASS BELLS...

OH, JEFF, DARLING! WHAT A NICE THOUGHT! OF COURSE...



EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT. WHEN THE PROPER TIME HAD ELAPSED AND THE WEDDING DAY WAS SET, JEFF REMOVED THE TWO FIGURINES FROM THE CHINA CLOSET... AND... FOR THE

TOP OF THE WEDDING CAKE, PIERRE! JUST ONE THING! BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THEM! UNDERSTAND...?

OH... OUI, M'SIEU HORN. I WEEL BE EXTRA CAREFUL!



BUT WHEN THE AIR HIT THE FIGURE OF LOUISE, SOMETHING STRANGE BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE. AFTER ALL... LOUISE HAD BEEN DEAD FOR A LONG TIME...

PHEW! SOMETHING SMELLS IN ZIS BAKERY, PIERRE...

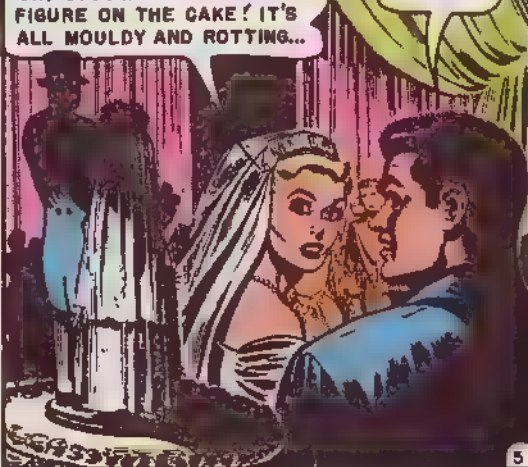
IT EES THESE FIGURE... ON ZE CAKE! BUT WHAT CAN I DO? M'SIEU HORN INSISTED...



AND AT THE WEDDING RECEPTION...

OH, JEFF! LOOK! THE BRIDE'S FIGURE ON THE CAKE! IT'S ALL MOULDY AND ROTTING...

CHOKO...



AFTER THE WEDDING...

THROW THEM AWAY, JEFF! THE BRIDE IS PUTRID! IT SMELLS LIKE A GRAVE!

LET ME SAVE THE GROOM'S FIGURE, EVE! I'LL HAVE PIERRE MAKE US ANOTHER BRIDE!



JEFF PLACED THE VENTILATED GLASS BELL OVER THE GROOM FIGURINE...

ALL RIGHT! NOW... COME TO BED, HUH?

MOON AS I THROW THIS AWAY!



JEFF DROPPED THE FOUL-SMELLING FIGURINE OF LOUISE INTO THE GARBAGE CAN, AND WENT TO BED.

OH, JEFF! AT LAST... MARRIED!

EVE BABY...



DOWNSTAIRS, IN THE GARBAGE CAN... THE ROTTING FIGURINE OF LOUISE STIRRED... MOVED! IT CLIMBED FROM THE LITTER-FILLED CAN.



...STUMBLED ACROSS THE KITCHEN AND INTO THE DINING ROOM WHERE JEFF'S FIGURINE STOOD UNDER THE GLASS...



...CLIMBED TO THE TABLE AND PUSHED.



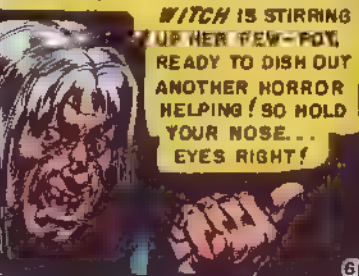
UPSTAIRS, IN THE BEDROOM, THE LIGHT HAD JUST GONE OUT! SUDDENLY, EVE SCREAMED...



HER HYSTERICAL SHRIEKS ECHOED THROUGH THE HOUSE, DOWN INTO THE DINING-ROOM WHERE JEFF'S VOODOO FIGURE LAY SMASHED INTO A HUNDRED JAGGED PIECES...



HEH, HEH! SO EVE'S NEW BRIDE-GROOM JUST FELL APART... AND ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHT, TOO. TCH! TCH! WELL, IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU! A MODERN MARRIAGE CAN'T LAST IF IT DOESN'T BEGIN SOLIDLY! AND AT LEAST EVE FOUND OUT THAT JEFF WAS JUST A CRUMB, IN TIME! NOW THE OLD



WITCH IS STIRRING UP HER FEW-FOY, READY TO DISH OUT ANOTHER HORROR HELPING! SO HOLD YOUR NOSE... EYES RIGHT!

THE WITCH'S CAULDRON!

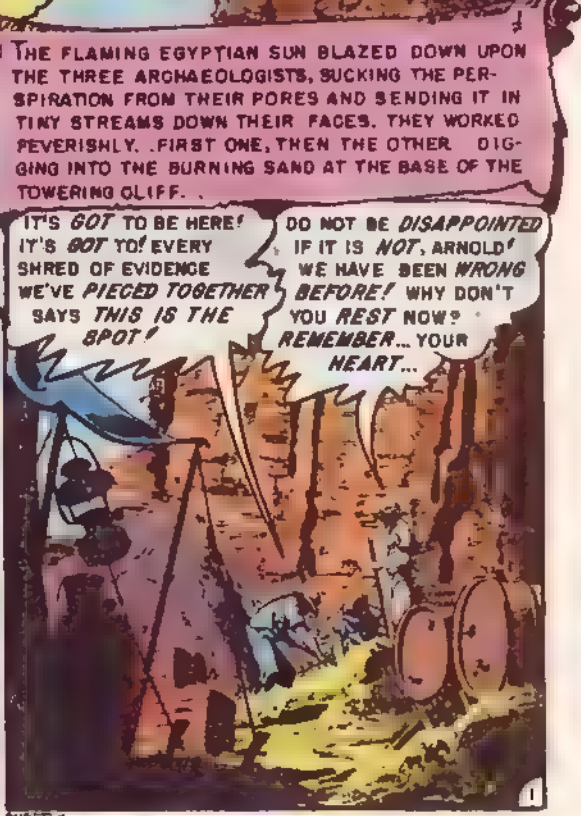
HEE, HEE! SO IT'S SUPERNATURAL YOU WANT, EH? WELL... YOU'VE HAD A WEREWOLF STORY... A VAMPIRE STORY... AND A VOODOO STORY! NOW LET'S SEE! AH! I'VE GOT THE RECIPE! CMON IN! I'LL COOK UP A MUMMY STORY IN MY CRUDDY CAULDRON! YEP! IT'S YOUR SHIVERS- CHEF, THE OLD WITCH, READY TO DISH OUT HER TASTY TALE OF TERROR FOR THIS ISSUE OF C.K.'S MAG! SO DRAW UP TO THE BUBBLING POT... TUCK YOUR SHROUDS UNDER YOUR CHINS. FASTEN YOUR DROOL CUPS... AND FEAST ON THE FOUL FARE I CALL...

THIS WRAPS IT UP!

THE FLAMING EGYPTIAN SUN BLAZED DOWN UPON THE THREE ARCHAEOLOGISTS, SUCKING THE PERSPIRATION FROM THEIR PORES AND SENDING IT IN TINY STREAMS DOWN THEIR FACES. THEY WORKED FEVERISHLY. FIRST ONE, THEN THE OTHER DIGGING INTO THE BURNING SAND AT THE BASE OF THE TOWERING CLIFF.

IT'S GOT TO BE HERE!
IT'S GOT TO! EVERY
SHRED OF EVIDENCE
WE'VE PIECED TOGETHER
SAYS THIS IS THE
SPOT!

DO NOT BE DISAPPOINTED
IF IT IS NOT, ARNOLD!
WE HAVE BEEN WRONG
BEFORE! WHY DON'T
YOU REST NOW?
REMEMBER... YOUR
HEART...



DOCTOR ARNOLD MUNSEN SAT DOWN AND WIPED HIS SOAKING WET FACE WITH HIS HANDKERCHIEF! HE STUDIED HIS TWO ASSOCIATES... PROFESSOR THOMAS STEEL AND DOCTOR JEROME GRABEL... AS THEY CONTINUED DIGGING...

HERE WE ARE...ON THE VERGE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND OF THE CENTURY... AND I HAVE TO WATCH MY HEART!

YOU WERE ADVISED NOT EVEN TO GO ALONG ON THIS EXPEDITION, ARNOLD... NO LESS DIG LIKE THAT!

BAH! I'M AS HEALTHY AS A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD! JUST BECAUSE I HAD A SLIGHT HEART ATTACK...

ANOTHER HEART ATTACK COULD BE FATAL, ARNOLD! GET THAT THROUGH YOUR STUBBORN THICK SKULL!

TOM... ARNOLD... LOOK...



DOCTOR JEROME GRABEL POINTED AT THE SPOT WHERE THEY'D BEEN DIGGING...

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EXCAVATION WAS A ROUND IRON RING IMBEDDED IN A HUGE, PARTIALLY UNCOVERED SLAB OF STONE...

SOON, THE STONE BLOCK HAD BEEN FULLY CLEARED OF SAND. AS ARNOLD ANXIOUSLY WATCHED, THOMAS AND JEROME TUGGED AT IT.



GIVE ME A SHOVEL! LET ME... PLEASE.

IT'S COMING LOOSE! I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND...



FINALLY, THE LARGE STONE SLAB WAS SWUNG AWAY, REVEALING A DARK OPENING WITH DUSTY STEPS DESCENDING INTO THE BLACKNESS. THE MUSTY ODOR OF DECAY AND ROT, OF THINGS LONG BURIED AND AIR THREE THOUSAND YEARS OLD, SEARED THEIR NOSTRILS...

FOOTSTEPS ECHOED INTO THE CAVERNOUS BLACKNESS, SHATTERING THE SILENCE OF CENTURIES. FLICKERING LIGHT FROM THE LANTERN THOMAS CARRIED GASESS WALLS THAT HAD NOT FELT LIGHT FOR OVER A HUNDRED GENERATIONS. THE THREE MEN DESCENDED INTO THE SHAFT...



WE'VE FOUND IT! WE'VE FOUND IT! THE TOMB OF IKAH-MU-KAHMA... FIFTH PHARAOH OF EGYPT...

I'VE COUNTED FIFTY-FIVE STEPS ALREADY! WE'RE HEARING THE BOTTOM.

THE STEPS ENDED BEFORE A SMALL DOOR. ITS SURFACE WAS EXQUISITELY DECORATED WITH TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARTISTRY. OVER THE DOOR WAS A TABLET INSCRIBED WITH HIEROGLYPHICS...

WHAT DOES IT SAY, THOMAS? YOU'RE THE HIEROGLYPHICS EXPERT.

IT SAYS, 'BEYOND THIS DOOR LIES EXALTED IKAH-MU-KAHMA, FIFTH PHARAOH OF ALL EGYPT. LET THIS BE A WARNING TO ALL WHO TRESPASS. DEATH WILL COME TO THOSE WHO ENTER HIS TOMB. IKAH-MU-KAHMA WILL RISE TO AVENGE THE DISTURBANCE OF ITS SANOTITY.'

JEROME'S LAUGHTER WAS THIN AND TINGED WITH NERVOUSNESS. IT RIPPLED THROUGH THE SILENCE AND ECHOED UP THE STAIRS OF THE SHAFT...

HEH, HEH! TYPICAL OF THE WARNINGS PLACED AT THE ENTRANCES TO OTHER PHARAOH'S TOMBS...

THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO SCARE OFF WANDERING BANDS OF THIEVES WHO MIGHT HAVE BROKEN INTO THE TOMBS AND STOLEN THE TREASURES BURIED WITH THE PHARAOHS...

ARNOLD TRIED TO PUSH THE DOOR OPEN...

IT'S SEALED!

WE'LL HAVE TO SMASH IT! LEND A HAND HERE, JEROME! STEP AWAY, ARNOLD!

FLINGING THEIR FULL WEIGHT AGAINST THE SEALED TOMB-ENTRANCE DOOR, DOCTOR GRABEL AND PROFESSOR STEEL FINALLY MANAGED TO BREAK IT DOWN...

GASP!

LOOK! ON THE FLOOR!

SKELETONS!

THE WHITENED SKULLS GRINNED UP AT THEM AS IF THEY EACH ENJOYED A SECRET THEY WOULD NOT SHARE...

PERHAPS THESE ARE THE REMAINS OF THIEVES WHO ONCE BROKE IN...

IMPOSSIBLE! THE DOOR WAS SEALED!

THEN WHO ARE THEY?

WORKMEN PERHAPS? SERVANTS... WHO INTERRED IKAH-MU-KAHMA AND THEN WERE MURDERED SO THAT THE SECRET OF THE TOMB'S LOCATION WOULD BE KEPT...

THOMAS DARTED FORWARD...

JEWELS! JEWELS! ARNOLD... JEROME... COME... SEE...

GOOD LORD! A FORTUNE IN PRECIOUS STONES!

PROFESSOR THOMAS STEEL SCOOPED UP HANDFULS OF THE SPARKLING GEMS HUNGRILY...

RUBIES! EMERALDS!
SAPPHIRES! MILLIONS
OF DOLLARS WORTH!

AND THE URNS
THAT HOLD THEM
ARE SOLID GOLD!

THIS IS THE GREATEST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIS-
COVERY OF THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY!
I SAID IT WOULD BE!
I...

TAKE IT EASY,
ARNOLD! DON'T
EXCITE YOUR-
SELF! REMEM-
BER... YOUR
HEART!

HERE! IN
HERE! IT'S
THE BURIAL
CHAMBER!

THE SARCOPHAGUS
OF IKAH-MU-KAHMA!

THOMAS! HELP ME
LIFT THE LID!

GET THAT END,
JEROME!

THE LID OF THE SARCOPHAGUS WAS REMOVED,
REVEALING THE MUMMY OF IKAH-MU-KAHMA.

GASP!

PERFECTLY
PRESERVED!

WHAT A FIND!
WE MUST GET A
MESSAGE BACK...
TO THE MUSEUM!

THOMAS STARED AT ARNOLD.

BUT...BUT IF WE REPORT
THAT WE'VE FOUND THE
TOMB...WE'LL HAVE TO
TURN THE TREASURE
OVER TO THEM.

WHY
OF
COURSE,
THOMAS!
IT BELONGS
TO THEM...

BUT WE FOUND
IT! WE SWEATED
AND BURNED
OUT IN THAT
HOT SUN UNTIL
WE DISCOVERED
IT! ISN'T THAT
RIGHT, JEROME?

THOMAS! I'M
ASHAMED
OF YOU! OF
COURSE THE
TREASURE
BELONGS TO
THE MUSEUM...

JEROME TOOK THOMAS BY THE ARM
AND JERKED HIM INTO A CORNER.

SHUT UP, YOU
FOOL! CAN'T
YOU SEE ARNOLD'S
TOO RIGHTEDUS
TO CLAIM THE
TREASURE FOR
HIMSELF!

THEN WE'VE
GOT TO GET
RID OF HIM!
HE STANDS
IN OUR
WAY...

LATER THAT NIGHT, IN THE CAMP OF THE THREE ARCHAEOLOGISTS NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB...

IS HE ASLEEP? YES, NOW THIS IS WHAT YOU DO! GO DOWN INTO THE TOMB! UNWRAP THE MUMMY OF IKAH-MU-KAHMA AND WRAP YOURSELF IN ITS WINDINGS...



THEN SHOUT OR SCREAM! I'LL AWAKEN I GET ARNOLD AND TELL HIM THAT YOU MUST BE IT! HIS DOWN THERE! WHEN WE REACH THE BURIAL HEART! CHAMBER, YOU GO INTO A MUMMY ACT, HE'LL DROP DEAD OF FRIGHT! AND I'LL START SHOUTING ABOUT THE CURSE...



EXACTLY! AND WHEN WE BRING HIS BODY BACK TO CAIRO, WE'LL CLAIM HE HAD A HEART ATTACK FROM DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE FAILURE OF OUR EXPEDITION!



ALL RIGHT! GO AHEAD! AND HURRY! WAIT FOR MY SHOUT!



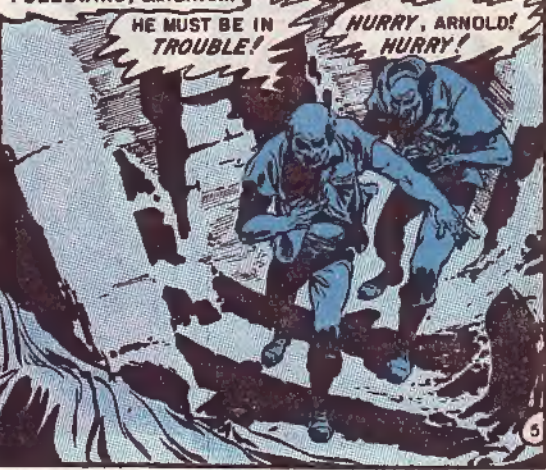
THOMAS WENT DOWN INTO THE TOMB! JEROME SAT IN HIS COT FOR A LONG TIME... GROWING MORE AND MORE UNEASY! FINALLY...



ARNOLD SAT BOLT UPRIGHT ON HIS COT! JEROME LEAPED TO HIS FEET! THOMAS'S BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM CAME AGAIN...



ARNOLD STARTED DOWN THE TOMB STEPS... JEROME FOLLOWING, SMILING...



SUDDENLY, THEY REACHED THE TREASURE CHAMBER. THOMAS'S LAMP SAT UPON THE FLOOR ILLUMINATING THE ENTIRE ROOM. BEYOND WAS THE BURIAL CHAMBER. ARNOLD STOPPED...

OH, MY LORD! LOOK!

IT... IT'S THE MUMMY!

HE CAME FROM THE BURIAL CHAMBER... SHAMBLING ALONG... TOTTERING WEAKLY... HIS WINDINGS HANGING LOOSELY. JEROME HAD TO CONTROL HIMSELF TO KEEP FROM LAUGHING! THOMAS... LOOKED SO COMICAL! THEN... JEROME WENT INTO HIS ACT...

THE CURSE, ARNOLD! THE CURSE ON THE ENTRANCE DOOR!

DEATH WILL COME TO THOSE WHO ENTER HIS TOMB. IKAH-MUKAHMA... WILL... CHOKE... RISE...

THE WRAPPED FIGURE STUMBLERD FORWARD...

THE CURSE IS TRUE, ARNOLD! THE MUMMY HAS RISEN!

JEROME... I... I...

IT WAS ALMOST UPON THEM...

ARNOLD! COME ON! LET'S RUN! RUN!

CHOK... JEROME! MY... MY...

...HEART!

ARNOLD CRUMPLED TO THE FLOOR. JEROME KNELT TO EXAMINE HIM...

HE... HE'S DEAD!

JEROME BEGAN TO LAUGH! THE WRAPPED FIGURE STOPPED...

GOOD WORK, THOMAS! GOOD WORK! JUST ONE THING...

JEROME DREW THE PISTOL FROM UNDER HIS SHIRT...

ONE THING YOU *DIDN'T* COUNT ON, THOMAS! YOU SEE! I WANT THAT TREASURE FOR MYSELF! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP...



JEROME FIRED AT THE SWAYING FIGURE BEFORE HIM...



THE BULLET TORE THROUGH THE WRAPPINGS BUT THE FIGURE DID NOT FALL...

FOR GOD'S SAKE! I SHOT YOU, THOMAS! DIE! DIE!



JEROME BACKED OFF...EMPTYING HIS GUN INTO THE WINDING-ENCASED FIGURE...



BUT THE MUMMY KEPT COMING. JEROME BACKED INTO THE BURIAL CHAMBER, THE SARCOPHAGUS WAS OPEN...

GOOD LORD!



THE MAN IN THE MUMMY CASE HAD A LOOK OF SHEER HORROR ON HIS FACE...

THOMAS! THOMAS! THEN... THEN... CHOKES!

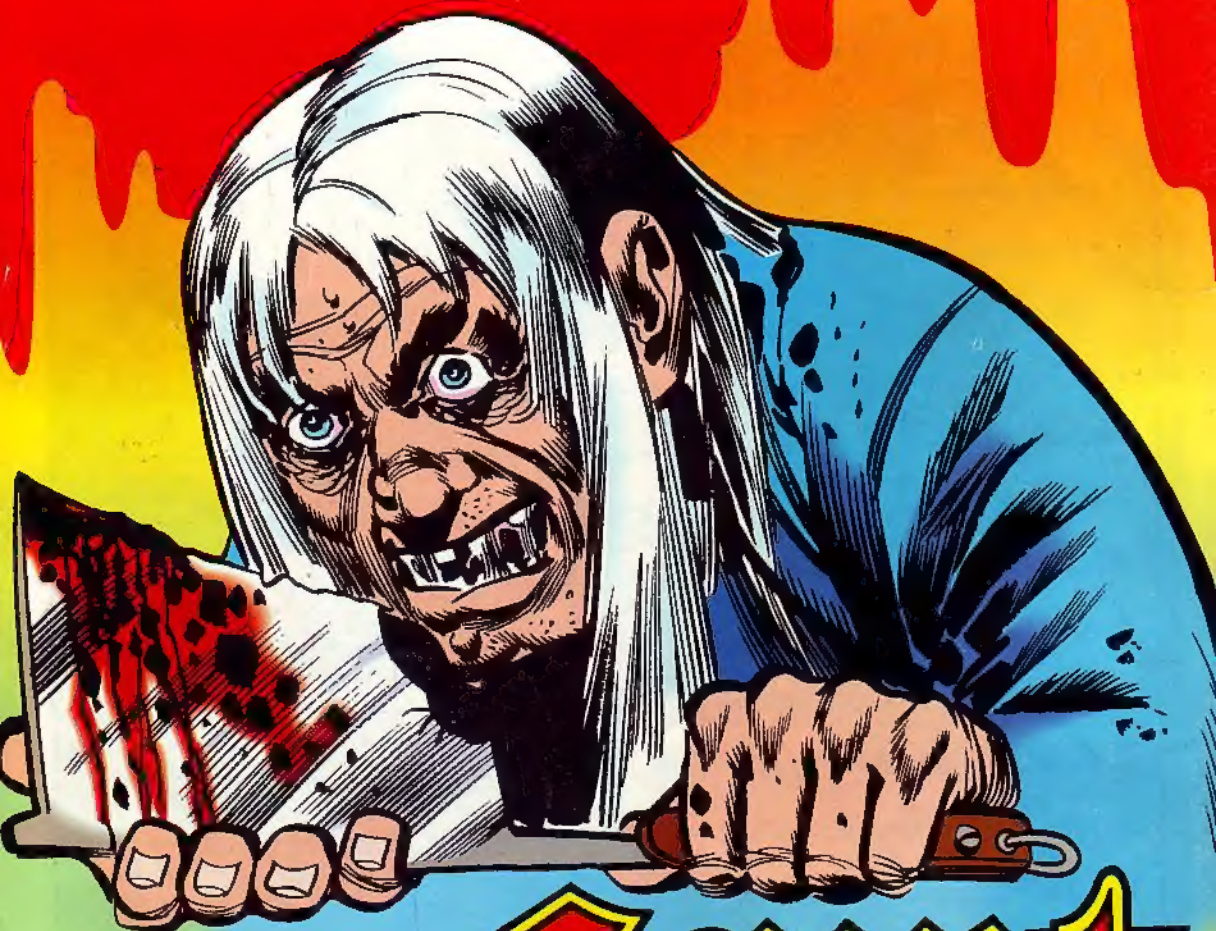


HEE, HEE! SO IKAH-MU-WHAT'S HIS NAME TOOK CARE OF THE DISTURBERS OF HIS SANCTITY AS THE CURSE HAD PREDICTED. AFTER THAT HE TOSSED THE BODIES ON THE PILE WITH THE OTHER SKELETONS... YAWNED... SHUT THE FRONT SLAB ONCE MORE... AND WENT BACK TO SLEEP! WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO, NOW THAT YOU'VE FINISHED MY... TALE OF HORROR! BYE, NOW!

THE MUMMY WAS RIGHT BEHIND JEROME... ALMOST... TOUGHING HIM...



THE END



The CRYPT KEEPER

